

WHITE HOUSE FELLOW PROGRAM

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 14, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Michelle Peluso, one of my constituents of New York City, New York for serving as a distinguished 1998–99 White House Fellow.

Established in 1965, the White House Fellowship Program honors outstanding citizens across the United States who demonstrate excellence in community service, leadership, academic initiative and professional achievement. It is the Nation's most prestigious fellowship for public service and leadership development. For more than three decades, White House fellows have been chosen on the merit of remarkable achievement early in their career. Each year, 500–800 applicants compete nationwide for 11–19 fellowships.

Ms. Peluso graduated summa cum laude from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, receiving her bachelor's degree in economics. As an undergraduate, she led volunteer programs in West Philadelphia, including a mentoring program, a campus community service group and a volunteer initiative at the Ronald McDonald House. Ms. Peluso received a master's degree in philosophy, politics and economics from Pembroke College at Oxford. Hired as a management consultant with the Boston Consulting Group in New York, she completed a one-year project to define the next frontier in health care and then traveled worldwide to present her ideas to members of the firm's global health care practice area. She founded A New Generation for Peace, a non-profit group that brought together 350 youths from 50 countries for seminars on global issues. Additionally, Ms. Peluso is a member of the board of directors of Christa House, which builds homes and provides care for end-stage AIDS patients.

As a White House fellow assigned to the U.S. Department of Labor, Ms. Peluso—has co-managed the Vice-President's summit on 21st Century Skills for 21st century jobs, where she was responsible for leading inter-agency steering committee meetings, writing speeches and working on new policy announcements. She also leads a team that addresses one of Labor Secretary Alexis Herman's top priorities, "out-of-school youth." In that capacity, Ms. Peluso is responsible for coordinating the Department's \$2.5 billion portfolio of programs.

She is also responsible for developing new partnerships and a public awareness campaign for the initiative. Further, Ms. Peluso manages the Secretary's dislocated workers initiative, which is the Secretary's number two priority. Her working involves leading a team of senior program managers, economists and public affairs specialists to ensure effective management of programs, develop new strategies for worker dislocation, and help coordinate grants to communities and businesses affected by dislocations.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in applauding Michelle Peluso for her achievements. I wish to congratulate Ms.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Peluso for her distinguished service to White House Fellowship Program.

INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 14, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to report to my colleagues the actions of the House subcommittee on Military Personnel. Today I offered, and the subcommittee endorsed, an amendment that many of my colleagues will recognize as the Harman amendment.

I am proud to continue the good work of my friend and colleague, Congresswoman Jane Harman. Jane was one of my mentors. I am sure my colleagues on the subcommittee will join me in commending Jane's contribution to the quality of life for our military personnel and their families.

My amendment includes the identical language from the Harman amendment. It repeals a provision of the FY 1996 defense bill barring women serving overseas in the U.S. military from using their own funds to obtain legal abortion services in military hospitals. As the ranking woman Democrat on our Committee, I strongly feel that this policy must be overturned.

Women who volunteer to serve in our Armed Forces already give up many freedoms and risk their lives to defend our country. They should not have to sacrifice their privacy, their health, and their basic constitutional rights because of a policy with no valid military purpose.

This is a health care concern. Local facilities in foreign nations are often not equipped to handle procedures, and medical standards may be far lower than those in the United States. Why are we putting our own soldiers at risk?

This is a matter of fairness. Servicewoman and military dependents stationed abroad do not expect special treatment, they only expect the right to receive the same services guaranteed to American women under Roe v. Wade—at their own expense.

My amendment does not allow taxpayer-funded abortions at military hospitals, nor does it compel any doctor who opposes abortion on principle or as a matter of conscience to perform an abortion. My amendment reinstates the same policy that was in effect from 1973 until 1988, and again from 1993 to 1996.

My amendment has strong support from the House. Ninety Members—both Democrats and Republicans—have cosponsored my legislation to change this policy.

My amendment has strong support from health care providers; the American Public Health Association, the American Medical Women's Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Planned Parenthood Federation of America have all indicated their support for this amendment.

And, as you can see from the letter I've provided, my amendment is supported by the Department of Defense. If the professionals who are responsible for our nation's armed serv-

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ices support this policy change, why wouldn't this Committee?

I am pleased that my fellow colleagues on the subcommittee voted to endorse my amendment with bipartisan support. Repealing this unfair prohibition will help keep our soldiers healthy and safe.

PREVENT THE EXPORT OF MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT TECHNOLOGY TO CHINA

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 14, 1999

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced legislation that will prohibit the sale of the Cray SV1 supercomputer to Hong Kong, now a territory of Communist China. The export of this computer threatens our national security, and I urge you to join in co-sponsoring this bill.

In February of this year, a contract was awarded to supply the Hong Kong Observatory with the fastest computer the territory has ever seen. The Cray SV1 supercomputer runs at the speed of 21,000 million theoretical operations a second. If the battlefield and simulation capability of the system were to fall into the wrong hands, it could seriously undermine our national security. This should trigger a "red flag" for dual-use militarily significant technology transfers.

To think that China would use this computer for scientific purposes only is pure folly. Last month, a Hong Kong company went before local courts for allegedly "selling a supercomputer to a Chinese advanced weapons institute." A separate Hong Kong company is also facing charges that it imported strategic commodities without a license. It diverted a dual-use computer to a mainland military research institute.

Officials from the departments of Defense, Commerce, Energy and State have raised objections to the sale of the Cray SV1, yet the export is still under consideration by the Clinton Administration. I urge all of my colleagues to please join in co-sponsoring my bill by contacting my office.

RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESS OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL "STAMP OUT HUNGER" FOOD DRIVE IN NASHUA

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 14, 1999

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday I had the opportunity to participate in the National Association of Letter Carriers annual food drive in my district. The seventh national "Stamp Out Hunger" event was sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers and was held in 10,000 cities throughout the United States. One of these cities was Nashua, New Hampshire, where myself and Postal Carrier Doug Mercier traveled throughout his